

NPIC/D-81-67  
17 April 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Request for Approval of Advanced Light Table Prototype  
Contract [redacted] for  
[redacted] from FY 1967 Funding

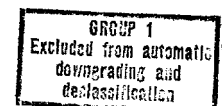
REFERENCE: Chief, Administrative Staff, O/DDI Memorandum dated  
4 February 1964: "Approval of Research and  
Development Activities."

1. The Advanced Light Table Prototype project is a 6-month effort to produce the prototype of an improved light table for general use by imagery interpreters.

2. The [redacted] Light Table, which has been in use at the NPIC for many years, is one of the standard image interpretation tools, with over 175 of them in use throughout the Center. However, during recent years, significant shortcomings in this instrument have come to light. Also, larger scale photography has come into use, calling for better quality tables, and there have been important related technological advances, such as improved lighting systems. The major deficiencies in the present model are unsatisfactory illumination and an awkward, manual system for winding film.

3. As the first step toward developing a modern light table, two improved tables were developed simultaneously by competitive contractors. The resulting devices were evaluated and the best features of each were selected for inclusion in this advanced prototype. The table developed [redacted] was generally superior, and the proposed prototype will essentially be a simpler, smaller, lighter, and less expensive refinement of that model. Among the features selected from the competitive [redacted] design is the excellent illumination system. Because of their performance in the development of their first improved table, [redacted] was selected as contractor for the advanced prototype. Three months will be required for design, and three additional months will be spent on fabrication. The delivered prototype will then be tested and evaluated, and a decision will be made whether to seek further improvement or to begin production of the new table.

~~SECRET~~



Declass Review by  
NGA.

SECRET

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Contract with [REDACTED]  
from FY 1967 Funding

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4. NPIC's work on this project has been made known to the intelligence community through the Committee on Photographic Exploitation (COPE). Further, informal, coordination was carried out with the Naval Reconnaissance and Technical Support Center (NRTSC).

5. I recommend that this project be approved at a funding level [REDACTED] for a 6-month development effort by [REDACTED]

25X1

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ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL

Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

Attachments:

1. Catalog Form
2. Proposal

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
R. J. SMITH  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Distribution:

- Original and 1 - NPIC/SS/LB (after approval) with attachments  
1 - DDI with att 1  
2 - NPIC/ODir with att 1  
1 - NPIC/TDS/DS with att 1

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6/24/98

PROJECT TITLE/CODE NAME		SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Advanced Light Table Prototype		A related project covering the refinement and further development of three advanced light tables.	
CONTRACTOR NAME		LOCATION OF CONTRACTOR	
5. CLASS OF CONTRACTOR Manufacturer		6. TYPE OF CONTRACT	
7. FUNDS FY 1966 FY 1967 FY 1968 \$ None		8. REQUISITION NO.	9. BUDGET PROJECT NO. NP-V-3-02037
		10. EFFECTIVE CONTRACT DATE (Begin - end) May 1967 - Nov 1967	11. SECURITY CLASS. A.A. - Confidential T. - Unclassified W. - Unclassified
12. RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE/OFFICE/PROJECT OFFICER TELEPHONE EXTENSION DDI/NPIC/TDS/			
13. REQUIREMENT/AUTHORITY Existing light tables, the basic instrument for virtually all image interpretation, are awkward to use, mechanically inefficient, and provide inadequate illumination. The vast amount and high quality of present and future reconnaissance imagery requires the development of an improved table.			
14. TYPE OF WORK TO BE DONE Engineering Development			
15. CATEGORIES OF EFFORT			
MAJOR CATEGORY Viewing Systems		SUB-CATEGORIES Light Sources	
16. END ITEM OR SERVICES FROM THIS CONTRACT/IMPROVEMENT OVER CURRENT SYSTEM, EQUIPMENT, ETC. A prototype model of an advanced film-viewing light table, monthly progress reports, and operation and maintenance manuals.			
17. SUPPORTING OR RELATED CONTRACTS (Agency & Other)/COORDINATION Two previous NPIC concurrent contracts have produced competitive prototype models of this advanced light table. Thorough evaluation provides specifications for an optimized model, incorporating the advantages of each. No equivalent device exists or is under development elsewhere.			
18. DESCRIPTION OF INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENT AND DETAILED TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (Continue on additional page if required) An optimized prototype based on the best features of the two experimental prototypes will be produced. The greatest improvement will be in the film transport and lighting systems. After further evaluation, the prototype or an improved version of it will be put into production to replace existing light tables.			
19. APPROVED BY AND DATE			
OFFICE	DEPUTY DIRECTOR	DDCI	

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## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional) Request for Approval of Advanced Light Table Prototype Contract  
with [redacted] from FY 1967 Funding

FROM: Director, NPIC  
6 N 212  
[redacted]

EXTENSION

NO. NPIC/D-81-67

DATE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Asst. for TD/NPIC

17A 17A [initials]

Review

2. Tech. Advisor, NPIC

18 April [initials]

Review

3. Exec. Director, NPIC

Review

4. Deputy Director, NPIC

Review

5. Director, NPIC

Signature

6. DD/I  
7 E 44 Hdqs.

Review & Approval

7.

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